(f) whether public hearings would be held in Visakhapatnam on this SEZ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) A Multi product SEZ set up by the Central Government has been functioning at Visakhapatnam since 1994. Approval has also been given to M/s APIIC for setting up a Multi Product Special Economic Zone (SEZ) at Visakhapatnam over an area of 2309 hectares.

(d) and (e) First approval for the APIIC SEZ was given on 26th September, 2000 as per the policy prevalent at that time.

(f) The SEZ Policy prevalent at the relevant time and the SEZ Act, 2005 and the SEZ Rules, 2006 do not provide for holding a public hearing before giving clearances for setting up of SEZs.

SEZs in Goa

729. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Goa has proposed the establishment of Special Economic Zones in the State;

(b) if so, the number of such Zones proposed to be established;

(c) the details regarding the status of the proposal to establish SEZs in that State;

(d) the total area identified/acquired for the purpose and the location thereof; and

(e) the type of units proposed to be established in these zones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (e) The Central Government has so far granted formal approval for establishment of four Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Goa. Details of the area, location and the type of units proposed to be established in these four SEZs are as follows:—

Sl.No.	Name of the developer	Area (in hectares)	Location	Type of units
1	Meditab Specialities Private Limited	123.2	Bhut-Khamb, Kerim, Tal-Pomda, Goa	Pharmaceuticals and Chemical products
2	Paradigm Logistics and Distribution Private Limited	40.25	Phase-IV-Verna Industrial Estate, Goa	Information Technology/ Information Technology Enables Services
3	K. Raheja Corp. Pvt. Ltd.	107.17	Phase-IV-Verna Industrial Estate, Goa	Services
4	Peninsula Pharma Research Centre Private Limited	20.36	Sancoale, Goa	Bio-tech

Virginia Tobacco farmers in the country

730. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Virginia Tobacco farmers in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the farmers have sought permission to expand their Virginia Tobacco cultivation;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government in this respect; and

(d) the steps taken to assist the Indian Tobacco farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) There are a total of 85,432 registered FCV tobacco farmers in the country.

(b) The FCV tobacco farmers of AP requested for increase in the crop size fixed initially by the Tobacco Board for 2006-07 AP crop season.

(c) On consideration of the request of AP FVC tobacco farmers, the crop size of 2006-07 AP crop season has been increased from 129.12 Mkg to 150 Mkg inclusive of 10% quantity as nature's bounty.